

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name:

**Albert William (Herbert)
Lovatt**

Rank:

Private

Service Number:

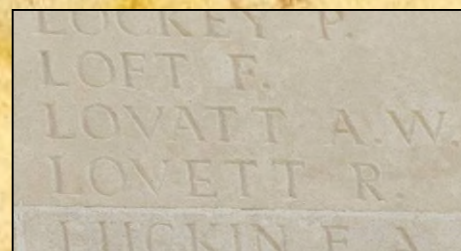
20075

Date of Death:

1st July 1916

Age:

33



Regiment/Service:

7th Battalion Bedfordshire regiment

Award:

British War and Victory medals

Grave/Memorial Reference:

Pier and Face 2C

Cemetery/Memorial:

Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

UK Cemetery/Memorial:

**Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Holy Saviour Church War Memorial, Radcliffe Rd., Hitchin**

Pre War:

He was the son of Mr and Mrs Henry Lovatt of 60, King St. Burton-on-Trent. He was married to Jenny Lovatt and their home was at 5, Bedford St. Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

This is almost certainly the same man as is described in the 'National Roll' as having the initials A.W. and in 'Soldiers died' database as Albert William Lovatt. He was born in Burton-on-Trent and resided in Hitchin. He volunteered in Bedford in March 1915 where he was given the Regimental Number 20075 and in January 1916 was sent to France with the 7th Battalion of the Regiment. He was killed in action on the first day of the great Somme offensive along with 20,000 of his comrades.

The Battalion's objective was the Pommiers Redoubt and trench. They started at 7.30am as part of the 54th Brigade in the 18th Division. By 7.45am all the officers in the leading Companies had become casualties, but the NCOs and men pressed on and by 9.30am had captured their objectives. They continued for over 2,000 yards from the starting point and the Battalion was then withdrawn to Cannoy for a short rest.

He was in 'D' Company, which formed up in No. 3 Trench in support of 'B' and 'C' Companies. They were the assaulting Battalion along with the 11th Royal Fusiliers. An artillery bombardment was heavy all night and increased in intensity till zero hour at 7.30 am, having commenced five days and nights earlier. 'D' Company followed closely behind 'B' and 'C' Companies and pushed sections in where needed. The men had been living in water-filled trenches but morale was high.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

